

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the opportunities she provided, on October 10, 16, and 23, 2007, to discuss the application and possibilities for amending the claims.

Claims 28-43 and 48-50 are pending in this application. In response to the Examiner's suggestions, applicant has amended claims 28-30, 36-38, 41, and 48-50, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claim 44 was not presented and Applicant has cancelled claims 45-47.

The amendments to claim 28 provide that the method includes the step of "creating an order-related structure for an order from the user", which includes "creating a plurality of order-related objects" and "establishing a first ... and a second relationship". In addition, the plurality of objects of the second type represent "different alternative mechanisms to process a first requirement of the order necessary to complete ordering and delivering of the one or more units of one or more items." Applicant has amended the final step to specify that it is for "processing the order based on the order-related structure by identifying" the portions of the one or more units to be processed by the alternative mechanisms represented by the first and second objects of a second type. The portions identified by the final step can be utilized, for example, to ship different portions of the order to different destinations or to charge different portions to different specified credit cards.

Amendments to other claims are similar to the amendments to claim 28.

The above amendments are all supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, the specification discloses that "[a]n order processing system permits a buyer (user) to purchase multiple items as part of a single order. In a typical example, parts of the order can be shipped to different locations and the buyer can pay for the order using multiple payment mechanisms." (Paragraph [0005]) Further, the specification states that a "user interface allows the user to create and select default and additional shipping methods and payment mechanisms. In a preferred embodiment, the user selects where to ship goods and how to pay for goods (or uses the defaults), but the underlying relationship structure is transparent to the user." (Paragraph [0044])

Neither of the previously cited references by Rime (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0128919) and Helot (US Publication No. 2002/0169675), nor a combination of Rime and Helot, teach the method of claim 28. Rime in general describes a workflow system for processing orders by a network of gateways, in which gateways are responsible for directing the workflow through the network based on conditions set against values of the fields in the order. In Rime, different gateways may process different fields. Rime does not teach the elements of claim 28. For example, Rime does not teach establishing two relationships, each of which indicates an alternative mechanism for processing a requirement of a portion of the ordered units, and such that each portion is determined by a property of that relationship defined based on order related inputs from the user, independent of the ordered items or the mechanism itself, as recited in the claim. Even if one interpreted Rime's Fig. 2 as describing a division of the ordered units into two portions (board and bag), those portions and the relationships are pre-defined by the ordering system. Unlike the present claims, any relationships are not based on inputs from the ordering user, and are dependent on the ordered items (a bag and a board).

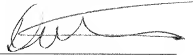
Helot does not teach that which is missing in Rime. Helot in general relates to an ordering system which assists the consumer to customize the ordered item by "separating the consumer item into ... base components and categories of available options. The base components and options categories are presented to a consumer through the user interface and the consumer selects the available choices." (Abstract) Helot's system is related for example to order customization when buying a note book computer (FIGS. 6-11) in which the consumer first selects a case, and subsequently other parts of the note book including its processor, screen, hard drive and CD-ROM. Helot does not teach using different alternative mechanisms to process a requirement of an order, relating those mechanisms to different portions of the order, the portions being determined by a property of the relationship based on inputs from the ordering user.

In view of the above amendment and the previous amendments and arguments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0101957.00125US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 26, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald R. Steinberg', written over a horizontal line.

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